



**Department of
Veterans Affairs**

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Fact Sheet

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VA Business Programs for Veterans

The VA Center for Veterans Enterprise, a sub-division of the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization, was created to make it easier for veterans to establish and expand their businesses. The center was established by the Veterans Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Act of 1999, and was officially dedicated February 14, 2001. The center's mission is to promote veterans' business enterprises.

The 1999 Act includes the creation of a National Veterans Business Development Corporation; establishes a "service-disabled" category of veterans for federal contracts; sets goals for contracts and sub-contracts given to veterans and service-disabled veterans for federal contracts; authorizes the Small Business Administration to defer repayment of business loans held by reservists recalled to active duty; requires VA to notify veterans in business about opportunities to do business with the federal government; and creates a formal agreement between VA, the Small Business Administration and the Service Corps of Retired Executives to provide technical and management support to veteran entrepreneurs.

What is a Veteran Owned Business?

A veteran is a person who served on active duty with the U.S. Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines, or Coast Guard and who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable. People who were called to active duty, plus any reservist or National Guardsman who was injured while in training status, also qualify as veterans. To be considered a veteran-owned business, 51 percent of the ownership and control of the enterprise must be maintained by veteran(s).

It is estimated that there are 5 million veteran-owned businesses that could benefit from the services provided by the Center for Veterans Enterprise. The center plans to contact veteran-owned businesses in the United States and register their services or products with federal procurement offices.

The Veterans Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Act of 1999

The Veterans Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Act of 1999 led to VA signing an agreement with the Small Business Administration and the Association of Small Business Development Centers to improve and expand services for veterans through a combined effort.

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Veterans Business 2/2/2/2

The Center for Veterans Enterprise provides veterans assistance through a national network of experienced business specialists.

To access the public laws, memoranda of understanding, information about the National Veterans Business Development Corporation and federal acquisition regulation information, go to the website at <http://www.vetbiz.gov/>.

Loans for reservists

The Veterans Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Act permits emergency lending to business owners who are members of the Reserves or National Guard when they are called up for active duty. This lending assistance helps defray bills so their businesses are not damaged while they are away.

The National Veterans Business Development Corporation

The National Veterans Business Development Corporation was created by the Veterans Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Act of 1999. It provides veterans with technical assistance in setting up small businesses. The corporation is responsible for preparing an annual report on veterans' business enterprises to Congress. It oversees a network of assistance centers that are available to help veterans who are interested in establishing or expanding their businesses and provides assistance to people transitioning from military to civilian jobs.

The corporation works with private business corporations to make sure they include veterans and service-disabled veterans as their business customers. The members of the corporation are the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Secretary of Defense, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration and six presidential appointees.

How do contractors find a veteran-owned business?

Veterans should register their business on the Small Business Administration's Pro-Net database. It is a free service to users. The address is <http://www.ccr.gov/>. Prime contractors will be directed to the database to locate veteran-owned businesses.

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